

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 646

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Taylor Drake, recipient of the Youth Community Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those estimable citizens who have dedicated their time and energies to helping others; and

WHEREAS, Taylor Drake is one such exemplary person whose commitment to serving the needs of his community has been recognized by his receipt of the 2016 Youth Community Award; and

WHEREAS, the son of Bill and Ann Drake, Taylor Drake is a junior at Maryville High School; and

WHEREAS, an outstanding young man, Mr. Drake's breadth of service is truly remarkable; and

WHEREAS, he has ably dedicated himself to helping people with mental and physical illnesses and disabilities, working in the special needs ministry of Fairview United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Taylor Drake is also a peer tutor at his school and a longtime volunteer and intern at Special Growers, a nonprofit organization in Maryville that provides vocational training and employment opportunities for young, disabled members of the local community; and

WHEREAS, most notably, Mr. Drake and another close friend recently orchestrated a hikeathon titled LeConte27 to raise funds in an effort to combat human trafficking and raise awareness of the issue's pervasive effects worldwide; and

WHEREAS, participants of the event hiked four of the five trails leading to Mt. LeConte, resulting in thirty miles traveled in twenty-four hours and raising a total of more than \$2,800 for

Mission Link International's efforts to combat human trafficking in Romania and Southeast Europe; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drake serves as an outstanding example of the quality of youth of this State; his peers and mentors alike commend his leadership abilities and dedication to his community; and

WHEREAS, Taylor Drake is an exemplary citizen whose commitment to helping others is representative of the very best characteristics of the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Taylor Drake for his outstanding community leadership, congratulate him as an esteemed recipient of the Youth Community Award, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.